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The Potato Beetle (This second edition, dated March 1935, is virtually
 a reprint of the first edition of May 1932)

The potato beetle, one of the worst enemies of this important food staple,
 was first described in the western parts of the United States a little
 more than 100 years ago, but it became a menace only with the opening of
 these states to agriculture when it gradually spread to the Atlantic
 seaboard and from there was imported to Europe.

At first sporadic points of infection were reported in northern Germany,
 in Saxony, and near the Rhine; In England gardens near the mouth of the
 Thames were found to be infected. Individual animals were discovered in
 Rotterdam, and in 1914 a serious outbreak in Stade, near the lower Elbe,
 caused vigorous measures for its eradication to be taken by the German
 Government.

France was invaded in 1919, but the seriousness of the situation was not
 recognized until 1922. The insect spread rapidly and by 1934 had covered
 60 of the 88 Departments of France.

In July 1934 a new infestation was discovered in Stade near Hamburg and
 at Cuxhaven on the Cuxhaven-Hamburg Railroad right-of-way. Again it took
 the most vigorous measures to stop a threatened spreading of the insect.
 The only way to prevent the complete annihilation of the potato industry,
 is by staying ahead of the insect by preventive measures. More or less
 the same methods are being followed in Germany and in England. Crews
 of well-trained workers, such as soldiers, members of the Voluntary Labor
 Service etc., under experienced foremen do better work than individual
 landowners could do themselves. The fields are thoroughly searched

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for insects which are picked by hand and destroyed. The plants are then uprooted, piled into pits 2 m deep, drenched with crude benzene, and buried. The cleared field is then plowed up, drenched with raw benzene (5 liters to the square meter). These fields on which some rows of plants are left standing to serve as "catch" plants, are kept under constant supervision. The catch plants are inspected daily by special crews in an area 10 km in diameter. Until the time of the potato harvest this work is continued by inspecting the "catch" area daily, an area 4 km in diameter every 4 days, and an area 10 km in diameter every 4 - 8 days. At the same time special crews go over the primary infected area, screening the soil to catch any insect that might still be alive. Results of such thorough work was effective; however, precautions were kept up for the next two years, since animals are known to have remained alive, hidden in the soil, for at least 18 months.

It is important that landowners be well educated in the necessity of these precautions and that it be impressed upon them to report the first signs of an invasion by the beetle to the proper authorities.

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